

December 24, 2022
10 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

Shepherd of the Hills
Lutheran Church

**GOD - IMMANUEL - EVERYWHERE!
UNTOLD STORIES OF THE NATIVITY**

GATHERING MUSIC Morgan Paulson *Welcome to Our World*

WELCOME

OPENING CHRISTMAS CAROL

#282 vv 1 & 4 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

- 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,

when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Pastor: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING...ISAIAH 52:7-10 (NRSV)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion,
"Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

#279 vv 1, 3, 4

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;

yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

GOSPEL READING...LUKE 2:1-20 (NRSV)

² In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

SONG OF RESPONSE #289 v 1 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner *What Child Is This?*

MESSAGE SONG #289 vv 2-3 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Our Christmas Eve offering will go to support our ministry partner Upbring, specifically the care of children. Upbring is a changemaking organization whose mission is to create a world where all children are cherished. 100% of your generosity will go to New Life Center in Canyon Lake and BeReal Program in Austin/San Marcos.

To learn more go to Upbring.org

Thank you for creating a neighborhood for these children through your special offering!



- To make a gift online, use this link:
<https://bit.ly/ChristmasEveGiving>
- By mail, send to 3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX 78746
- Scan the QR Code with your camera phone to give now.
- Drop offering envelope in box located by main door.

OFFERING PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day
our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

COMMUNION INVITATION

*As we celebrate this sacrament, all are invited to receive the Risen
presence of Jesus.*

*God is really present—in bread and wine—forgiving sins and
promising new life.*

*Bread/wafer— “The body of Christ given for you”;
Wine— “The blood of Christ shed for you.”*

POST - COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

BENEDICTION

(Please lift your light)

COMMISSIONING HYMN #281 *Silent Night, Holy Night!

1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

PRAYERS

We pray for Rodney Varner and Callie Ray Bell.

We pray for family and friends of Shepherd members:
Adryana Aldeen, Director of Advancement at Mariposa.

We pray for the people of Ukraine caught in the middle of war and violence. Our hearts break when women and children are displaced and families torn apart by the evil actions of others. May you break open hearts so that swords may be beat into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks.

We pray for our global ministry partners: Rev. Karen Castillo in Guatemala; Iglesia Luterana Augustina Virgen del Rosario, Aurora 8 de Octubre, Guatemala. We pray for Malcolm and Joy Henderson and the ministry of CHARIS in Haiti.

We pray for our local ministries: Mariposa Family Learning Center, Bread For All and Upbring Ministries.

We pray for our faith community, that we may be a church without walls and live out loud...faithfully!

**Prayers for family and friends are listed for 2 weeks,
unless we are notified otherwise.*

WORSHIP TEAM

Pastors	Pr. Tom Grevlos, Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner
Preaching Pastor	Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner
Director of Worship/Arts	Kevin McClure
AV	Jamie Nichols
Admin Ministry Coordinator	Amanda Forsberg
Campus Operations	Dave Wegner
Communications Director	Dabney Gomes
Student Ministry Coordinator	Joel Timmons
Executive Director	Bill Dawson
Finance Controller	Kevin Marlow

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran
3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin TX
www.shephills.org

Christmas Day Worship

Come As You Are!
Sunday, December 25

9:30am Activity Center: Breakfast + Fellowship
10:45am Sanctuary: Christmas Worship
10:45am Online: Rebroadcast of Christmas Eve



C CELEBRATE! May all who gather in churches all over the world to celebrate Christ's birth find a way to celebrate the unifying language of Love.

H HOPE! May the children who surround us infuse our lives with joy, bringing smiles to our faces, feelings of happiness, and renewed hope for the future.

R REMEMBER! May all the ornaments on the tree and decorations in your home touch your life with the blessing of memories.

I INCARNATION! May the gift of love of "God with us" promised at Christmas ignite a fire of love, removing all the resentments and hostility that exists in the world and in our lives.

S SING! May the powerful and moving songs of this season inspire your hearts to sing with full voice this Christmas season, "Joy to the World, the Lord has Come"!

T TELL! May the witness of the Shepherds who told everyone what they had seen and heard compel us to share and live the Good News that Jesus is born.

M MESSINESS! May the imperfection and all the unmet expectations of this holy season remind us of Jesus coming into the messiness of our lives to save us and the world from ourselves.

A ANSWER! May the Truth that "God so loved the world that he gave us his Son..." give us hope in the challenges of life inspiring us to put our love into action. Jesus is the answer to the season!

S SENSATIONAL! May you experience the sensation of hearing the greatest of all stories told at worship on Christmas Eve and may your senses come alive with the awesome sights and beautiful sounds of a child born in Bethlehem.

Peace,
Pr. Tom and Pr. Lauren

Christmas Poinsettias Given By

Connie Astrachan; Ron and Charlyn Bacon, in memory of Carla Faulk and Kelly Bacon; Earl and Amy Bishop, in honor of our boys - Cole and Clay Bishop; Rick and Jan Burnight, in honor of our children and grandchildren; Don and Ruby Cadenhead; Carlos and Christine Stern Calvo in memory of Uncle Dave and our grandparents; Bill and Sara Dawson in memory of Patricia Reed & Janet/Lee Dawson; Bril and Karen Flint, in memory of our parents; Pr. Tom and Jeanne Grevlos, in memory of Charles Lauth and Carl Grevlos; Barb Hampton, in memory of Eric and Hal Hampton; Judy and Bob Haugen, in memory of Luther and Qunita Koepke, Eileen Morgan, Harold and Betty Haugen, Jim and Rhonda Burkett; Bill and Yolanda Heine; Anita Knight, in memory of Don Knight;

Beverly Lauth, in memory of Charles Lauth; Tom and Betty Lueders, in memory of Judy and Mrs. Thro Lueders, Rex and Mrs. Leslie Ezell; Dan and Audrey Lunecki, in memory of John Perkunas; Bobby and Margaret McQuiston, in memory of the Morgan and McQuiston families; Alan Miller, in memory of Gloria Miller; David and Cindy Nelson, in memory of Joe Pyle; Charlie and Alana Oehler, in memory of our parents; Kathy and Herb Palmer, To the Glory of God; Diane Peterson, in memory of Larry Lommel and Tommi Femrite; Pam and Jeff Petrik, in memory of Vernon and Pearl Lee; Jeri Porter, in memory of Charlene Fischer; Glenn and Kitt Richter, in honor of our grandchildren; Linda Roesle, in memory of LaVerne and Arthur Kalhow; Kathie Smith and family, in memory of Rev. Thomas C. Smith; Jane Tackett, in memory of Ray, Ray, Paul, Debbie and Jude.